

<b>Report to</b>	Councillor Jason McLellan, Leader of the Council
<b>Date</b>	14 June 2022
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Democratic Services Manager
<b>Report author</b>	Steve Price
<b>Title</b>	Appointments to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

## **1. What is the report about?**

1.1. To confirm the nominations made by the political groups of 4 members of Denbighshire County Council to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (Fire Authority) and to consider allocating roles for 2 of the members to the Fire Authority's Executive Panel.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1. The North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority has requested appointments to the Fire Authority with Denbighshire having 4 seats. In line with the Council's political balance arrangements the Labour Group is entitled to 2 of the seats, and the Independent and Plaid Cymru Groups are entitled to 1 seat each.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

That the Leader is recommended to:

3.1 Confirm the appointment of Councillors Alan Hughes, Mark Young and two members of the Labour Group to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority with immediate effect;

3.2 Request that the Fire Authority appoints two councillors to the Fire Authority's Executive Panel; and

3.3 Confirm that the term of these appointments will be for the term of the current Council unless a replacement appointment or appointments are made.

## **4. Report details**

- 4.1. The appointment of four members is required to represent Denbighshire County Council on the Fire Authority. Representation on the Fire Authority is based on the political balance within the Council with the Labour Group entitled to 2 of the seats, and the Independent and Plaid Cymru Groups entitled to 1 seat each.
- 4.2 The recommendation includes a provision to implement the decision immediately. Under the Council's Call-in Procedure Rules (section 7 of the Council's constitution) it is stated that: 'In exceptional circumstances there may be urgent decisions that must be implemented immediately upon the decision being taken and a call-in is therefore not possible. These must be identified by the Cabinet / decision-maker at the time the decision is taken and the reasons behind their urgency explained and reported in the record of decision'
- 4.3 The Fire Authority requires members for an induction event on the 16 June and to hold its Annual Meeting on the 20 June 2022 which is the reason for the immediate implementation of the decision. The Labour, Independent and Plaid Cymru Groups have been invited to nominate a member / members for their vacant seats on the Fire Authority and the Plaid Cymru and Labour groups have nominated Councillors Alan Hughes and Mark Young.
- 4.4 At its Annual Meeting the Fire Authority will consider whether it will appoint members to its committees by applying political balance requirements. If, as in the past, the Authority decides not to apply these requirements it could fall to Denbighshire to appoint, from amongst its representatives, two members to serve on the Authority's Executive Panel. Those members not appointed to the Executive Panel will automatically become members of the Audit Committee.
- 4.6 Members were invited to state whether they wished to be considered for appointment to the Executive Panel or the Audit Committee.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

5.1. This appointment is to an important regional organisation that contributes to Denbighshire's corporate priorities and interests in general.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1. There are no additional costs or effect on other services arising from this report.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1. These appointments do not require a Well-being Impact Assessment.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1. The relevant political groups were invited to express interest in the nominations from their groups. Details of the Fire Authority's request were circulated to all members of the Council.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. The decision to appoint members to the Fire Authority will not create additional costs.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1. Failure to appoint representatives to important organisations could result in a risk that the interests of Denbighshire County Council and the county's residents would not be appropriately considered in the governance of the Fire Authority.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

11.1 In accordance with powers delegated to the Leader as per Appendix 2(b) to Section 13 of the Council's Constitution.

11.2 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (in respect of political balance arrangements).